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DATE: November 21, 2005

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 12

TO: **MS Amendment**
Group Art Unit: 3732
United States Patent and Trademark Office

FAX NUMBER: (571) 273-8300

FROM: Beth A. Vrioni
Patents and Trademarks
D-0377, AP6A-1
Telephone: (847) 938-7576

MESSAGE:

Applicants: Landry, et al.
Serial No.: 10/697,793
Filing Date: October 30, 2003
Examiner Name: (not yet assigned)
Title: SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS
Attorney Docket: 5259-10700US03

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above are the following documents:

1. Transmittal Letter (1 Page) in duplicate
2. Preliminary Amendment (8 Pages)

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NO. 7050 P. 2

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Landry, et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,793

Filed: October 30, 2003

For: SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS
AND METHODS

Attorney Docket No.: 5259-10700.US.03

Examiner: (not yet assigned)

Group Art Unit: 3732

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR §1.8(a):
Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37
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MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Group Art Unit 3732

Recipient Telephone Number: 571-273-8300

[Signature] 11/21/05
Learne Hilles and Date

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above entitled SPINAL STABILIZATION
SYSTEMS AND METHODS is the following:

1. Preliminary Amendment (8 Pages)

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount for any additional filing fees
required under 37 CFR §1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR
§1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment had not been tendered, to
Deposit Account No. 01-0025. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
Landry, et al.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES
Customer No.: 23492
Telephone: (847) 938-7576
Facsimile: (847) 938-2623

[Signature]
Beth A. Vroni
Registration No. 39,869
Attorney for Applicants

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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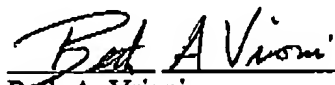
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 11/21/05
Leanne Hillesand DateTRANSMITTAL LETTERMS Amendment
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Attorney Docket No.: 5259-10700.US.03

Examiner: (not yet assigned)

Group Art Unit: 3738

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MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Group Art Unit 3732
Recipient Telefax Number: 571-273-8300


Leann C. Hillebrand


Date

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above-identified application,
Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and request their entry into the
record.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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James Hillesland 11/21/05

James Hillesland Date

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